

Workingmen's Houses,
Alexander C. Colford House
384 Southern Avenue
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-159-AJ

HABS
IOWA,
31-DUBU,
14-AJ-

**PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver Colorado 80225

Alexander C. Colford House

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Site Location: 384 Southern Avenue
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 1.59
Cadastral grid : SW1/4 NE1/4 S36 T89N R2E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
UTM coordinates: 15.691710.4705710
Lot dimensions : 50'x 80': .09 acre
Lot description: North 106' of West 1/2 of Lot 3,
and North 108' of East 1/2 of
Lot 4, Newman's Addition

Present Owner: Iowa Department of Transportation
Present Usage: vacant
Present Condition : fair

Overall Dimensions: main block: 16'x 30'; front porch: 7'x 14'; rear addition:
10'x 28'.

Orientation : northwest

Architectural Description : Plan type : rectangle; 1-1/2 stories
Foundation: parged stone perimeter walls.
Structure : wood frame
Ext. walls: square butt asbestos-cement siding installed
over beveled wood siding.
Roof : side-gable roof, moderate pitched, with asphalt
shingle sheathing.
Chimneys : brick exterior end chimney, centered on ridge.
Dormers : centrally placed shed dormer with paired 1/1
double-hung windows, on front roof slope;
asbestos-cement shingles on side walls.
Windows : 1/1 double-hung on enclosed porch and main
block; one 1/1 cottage window sash in upper
story on each gable end.
Openings : primary entrance on northeast wall of enclosed
porch; door in center of northeast side, with
metal cantilevered awning.
Porches : enclosed 1-story front porch; rear concrete
patio, with metal canopy over.
Details : simply boxed cornices on main block and porch.

Construction Date : 1875

Architecture Style: Side gabled box

Physical History : Alexander Colford built this modest single-story house in 1875 for \$200. A widower, he was a merchant tailor with a shop located upstairs at the corner of Main and 7th streets. Colford lived here for seven years

before selling the house to Nora Ryan. A school teacher, Ryan was unmarried when she bought the property and later married William Barrow. They sold the building in 1891. Later occupants included George Cable, Louis Scharff, David McGrath, Glen Howell and Merle and Clarence Ostrander. The building has undergone a number of alterations: installation of asphalt shingles on the roof and asbestos-cement shingles on the exterior walls, replacement of the front porch, (probable) addition of the brick exterior end chimney, (probable) addition of the shed dormer, and the addition of a rear patio and canopy.

Significance: The Alexander Colford House typifies the modest frame workingmen's residences constructed along Southern Avenue in the 1870s and 1880s.

References: Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1909, 1972.
Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-32-3-24.
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."
Land Title Abstract (located at Iowa Department of Transportation, Ames Iowa).
Dubuque Daily Herald: 31 October 1875.

Compiler: Clayton B. Fraser, Fraserdesign, Loveland Colorado.
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